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SUBJECT: LITHUANIA IS VERY HAPPY WITH GOVERNOR OF
AFGHANISTAN'S GHOR PROVINCE

REF: SECSTATE 109882

(C) We met with MFA's Chief Counselor Valdamaras Sarapinas on October 30 to deliver reftel talking points. Sarapinas said that the GOL is very happy with Ghor's Governor Sayed Iqbal Munib, though he noted that Lithuania found the previous Governor problematic. Sarapinas characterized Munib as very experienced and very positive, and he hopes that Munib will remain in place after the election results are finalized. Munib visited Lithuania last summer to meet with GOL officials. Sarapinas said that Munib has been working together with the GOL to develop Ghor's first-ever 5-year Provincial Development Plan. He noted that GOL Special Operations Forces in Zabul also have a good relationship with local leaders. We informed Sarapinas of our plans to suggest to the Afghan government the need for clear criteria for Governor appointments and asked that he keep us informed about Lithuania's relations with local government leaders in Ghor and in Zabul provinces.

DERSE